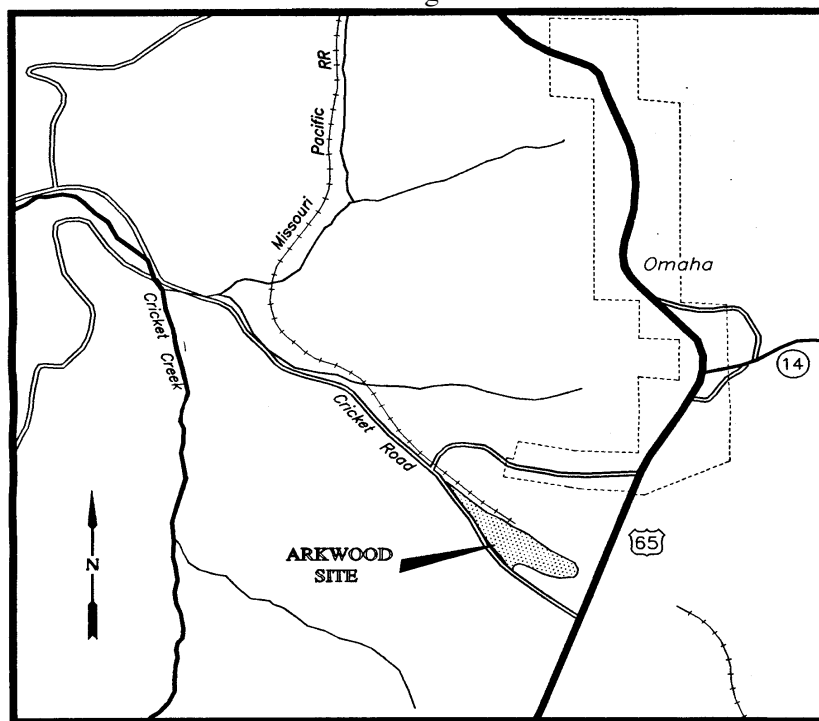


III. Background

A. Location

The Arkwood, Inc., site is located in Omaha, Section 27, T.21N. and R.21W., Boone County, Arkansas. The site is approximately one-half mile southwest of Omaha, Arkansas, and lies to the west of the old U.S. Highway 65 (see Figure 1 below). The site is a 30-acre parcel that slopes gently toward the northwest. It is located in a valley on Cricket Creek Road, bounded by ridges covered with native trees. The site is generally sparsely vegetated and covered with gravel and rocks mixed with native, clayey soils. Near-surface soils were contaminated by the former wood-treating operations that used creosote and pentachlorophenol (PCP) in the processes. The site is in an area of karst geology that is characterized by subsurface fractures and channels. New Cricket Spring, located down valley immediately west of the site, was contaminated by the former site activities.

Figure 1



GENERAL AREA MAP

The area immediately to the north is a steeply-sloped wooded hillside. The outskirts of the Omaha, Arkansas, community starts approximately one-half mile to the north of the Site. Old Highway 65 lies to the east of the Site with woods beyond the highway. To the south is Cricket Creek Road. On the other side of Cricket Creek Road is a track of undeveloped woods. Storm water and runoff from this area flow onto the site. East of the site are scattered residences; the closest being approximately one-half mile from the site.